

June 3, 1993

LB 345, 440A

SENATOR HOHENSTEIN: I would move that LB 440A be advanced to E & R for engrossing.

PRESIDENT MOUL: You've heard the motion to advance. All those in favor please say aye. Opposed nay. LB 440A is advanced. We are going to pass over LB 817 and LB 570 and return to Select File, LB 345.

CLERK: Madam President, the next amendment I have to 345 is by Senator Elmer and Haberman, AM1922. I have a note you want to withdraw that, Senator. (AM1922 appears on page 2064 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment is withdrawn.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Ashford would move to amend the bill. (AM2485 appears on page 2552 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President, and members, this amendment is the city sales tax for Omaha. You will find it on page 2188 and I believe I passed around copies of the amendment to you. Before I get started in my discussion, I would like to...I appreciate the Speaker putting this matter on the agenda. I also appreciate Senator Warner in...in his discussions with me about the amendment. I had initially requested a public hearing on this and Senator Warner and I discussed that and he indicated that because of the time, obviously, the vote was on May 11th, that there was insufficient time to have a public hearing and I appreciated his giving me the opportunity to talk to him about it and I appreciate the fact that there was not a public hearing, though, that due to the shortness of time that became impossible. Generally, members, I am coming here today not...and you've heard a lot from the city administration, from city council members and from myself, obviously, and from other supporters of this bill, but, in essence, the reason that I'm here and the reason that we're discussing this amendment now is because of the 31,000 people in Omaha that voted, quite frankly, to agree to do something for themselves to pay for renovation of a building that was built in 1958 which is in dire need of renovation. It's a building that is used approximately 250 days of the year for events that serve not only the Omaha-Douglas County area but events that also involve the rest of the State of Nebraska, for example, in March, the Ag Expo is a very